



Obamacare: “Your Money Or Your Life”

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A “TAXING DISTINCTION” ON SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

At the heart of the U.S. Supreme Court’s **controversial decision** to uphold the constitutionality of President Barack Obama’s socialized medicine monstrosity was the belief that the law’s individual mandate was a tax, not a penalty. Obviously that’s not an argument that was ever advanced by Obama, who famously vowed not to raise taxes on Americans earning less than \$250,000. Nor was it an argument advanced by government lawyers – who insisted that the mandate fell within the government’s authority to regulate interstate commerce. Is Obamacare’s mandate really a tax, though? A group of scholars at **The Cato Institute** have weighed in on that question via a new web video ...
Take a look ...

The money shot comes at the 1:23 mark when Ilya Shapiro, Cato’s constitutional scholar, compares government’s enforcement of the mandate to the actions of a petty street criminal. “You have a choice,” says Shapiro. “Either you can do this activity that the government wants you to do or you can pay a lot of money. That, for a lot of reasons, is no different than the mugger coming up to you and saying ‘your money or your life.’”
We agree ...
Obamacare’s mandate isn’t a tax, it’s a mugging. It’s also the first in what we suspect will be a long line of compulsory market activities disguised as “taxes.”